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SENSITIVE
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NEA/PI FOR CHARLES KIAMIE

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SUBJECT: G-8 BMENA Forum for the Future: New Greek Alternate Foreign Minister Encouraged to Attend

REF: A) STATE 101506 B) STATE 82753 C) ATHENS 1435 D)ATHENS 1439

11. (SBU) On October 21, the Ambassador encouraged Greek Alternate Foreign Minister Dimitris Droutsas to attend the 2009 G-8 BMENA Forum for the Future and noted, per ref. A, that Secretary Clinton is planning to attend. Droutsas expressed interest in the event and asked for more information. Post shared the points and information note from ref. B with Droutsas' office shortly thereafter.

12. (SBU) As reported in ref. C and ref. D, PolOff and EconOff originally shared details on the Forum for the Future with the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Hellenic Aid in August. At that time (then) Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis confirmed that she planned to attend the November Forum for the Future. Just a few weeks ago there was a change of government in Greece, with new Prime Minister George Papandreou also serving as Foreign Minister while Alternate Foreign Minister Droutsas is assuming the bulk of ministerial-level travel.
Speckhard